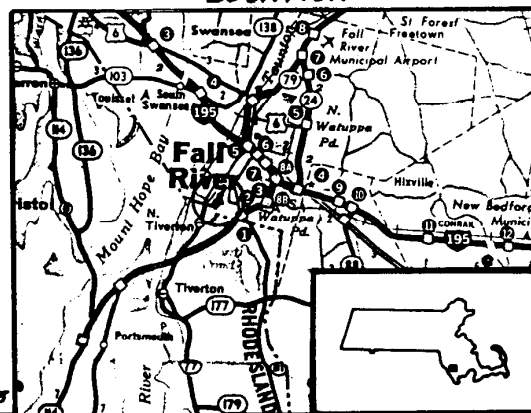


COOK POND
FALL RIVER
AREA = 154 Acres

LOCATION



NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

3-83

COOK POND (Fall River)

General Information:

This 154-acre warm water pond, also known as Laurel Lake, has an average depth of 10 feet and a maximum depth of 18 feet. The fertile water has a transparency of 6.5 feet, and the bottom is composed of rubble, rock and muck. The 2.6 miles of shoreline are only lightly developed despite the high population density of the surrounding area. Emergent vegetation is common, submergent vegetation scant. A heavy algae bloom often occurs during the summer months. Boaters should beware of the numerous rocks that occur in this pond, especially in the northern end.

A Division of Fisheries & Wildlife fishing pier and paved boat ramp provides access. It is located at the end of Henry Street, which is off of Laurel Street. The paved parking area can accommodate approximately 50 vehicles. Under the management of the Public Access Board (the construction arm of the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement) the ramp, parking lot and handicapped-accessible fishing pier are scheduled for rebuilding. Once completed, the day to day maintenance of the new facility will be the responsibility of the city of Fall River under the guidelines of the Department.

This pond was reclaimed in 1971 and is undoubtedly one of the most fertile ponds in Massachusetts.

Fish Populations:

The pond was last surveyed in 1979. Seven species of fish were sampled at that time. Gamefish sampled were largemouth bass and chain pickerel. Panfish, by order of abundance, were yellow perch, bluegill, white perch and pumpkinseed. Golden shiners provide a forage base. A short sampling operation directed at tiger muskies in 1994 came up with large numbers of white and yellow perch averaging a half-pound to a pound.

Fishing:

Fishing at Cook Pond is exceptional due to the fertility of the water, but because fishing pressure is high, large gamefish are fairly scarce. Largemouth bass are clearly the most abundant gamefish to target. There is always a chance that a large tiger muskie — the result of experimental stockings conducted in the late '80s and in '91 — could turn up at any time.

Panfish are an excellent resource here, particularly the yellow perch which are very abundant and range up to about a foot in length. Bluegills and pumpkinseeds are also common and have good average size.

Another excellent fishing pond nearby is South Watuppa Pond.

February 1998